

Message Text

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51

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-05 SSO-00 AID-05 ARAE-00 SP-02

SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /050 W
----- 000339

O 101725Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9401

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 7042

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, OVIP, VE

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE IN AGRICULTURE - UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON'S
VISIT

1. UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON MET WITH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE CONTRERAS ON JULY 9. THE MINISTER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS DEPUTIES FOR PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION; THE UNDER SECRETARY BY THE AMBASSADOR, MESSRS. FISHLOW AND WOOD, AND THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE.

2. CONTRERAS OPENED WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT PRESIDENT PEREZ HAD AUTHORIZED HIM TO ACCEPT THE INVITATION OF SECRETARY BUTZ TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES AND HAD ASKED THAT HE EXPRESS THE PRESIDENT'S GRATITUDE FOR THE INVITATION. (WE HAVE SINCE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM CONTRERAS AND WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM TO BEGIN WORK ON THE DETAILS OF THE TRIP).

3. THE UNDER SECRETARY REFERRED TO HIS RECENT CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY BUTZ AND SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO REITERATE THE USG'S OFFER TO EXPLORE MEASURES FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH THE GOV IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE. MR. ROBINSON STATED THAT THE USG WAS PREPARED TO SEND A TWO-MAN TEAM TO VENEZUELA, ONE FROM THE USDA AND ONE FROM AID, TO CONSULT ON SUCH POSSIBILITIES. HE SAID THE TEAM COULD COME AS EARLY AS NEXT WEEK.

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4. THE MINISTER ACCEPTED THE OFFER WITH ALACRITY AND APPARENT

GRATIFICATION. HE AND HIS ASSISTANTS THEN REVIEWED POSSIBLE AREAS FOR USG TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ALONG THE LINES PREVIOUSLY DEVELOPED IN THEIR CONVERSATIONS WITH SECRETARY BUTZ.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WE SHOULD MAINTAIN MOMENTUM BY IDENTIFYING THE TEAM TO THE MINISTRY AND OFFERING AN EARLY ARRIVAL DATE ASAP. PLEASE FURNISH THIS INFORMATION SO THAT WE CAN GO BACK TO THE MINISTRY NO LATER THAN JULY 15.
SHLAUDEMAM

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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